

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00165 191948Z

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ACTION SS-15

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R 191256Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5063

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FOR THE SECRETARY AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN TV ATTACKS SECRETARY KISSINGER BY NAME ON
AFRICAN POLICY

1. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED FBIS LONDON 162328Z JAN 76
"BUDAPEST RIDICULES KISSINGER'S SUDDEN INTEREST IN BLACK
AFRICA."

2. I HAVE JUST HAD DELIVERED TO THE HUNGARIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY AN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL LETTER ADDRESSED TO
ACTING FONMIN MARJAI WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER:

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1976, A COMMENTATOR ON THE
HUNGARIAN TELEVISION EVENING SERVICE DISCUSSED THE CURRENT
POLITICAL SITUATION IN AFRICA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
RECENT EVENTS IN ANGOLA. THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF WHAT THE
COMMENTATOR SAID IS UNSURPRISING AND WOULD NOT HAVE OCCASIONED
THIS LETTER. BUT HIS AD HOMINEM ATTACK ON DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER,
SECRETARY OF STATE, CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.

AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, MY EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY
REPORTED THIS NEW AND REGRETTABLE DEVELOPMENT TO
WASHINGTON. WE HAVE CONTRASTED THIS BITTER OUTBURST
WHICH ATTEMPTS TO BESMIRCH DR. KISSINGER AND DEMEAN HIS
MOTIVES WITH THE SOBER, REASONABLE MANNER IN WHICH THE
HUNGARIAN MEDIA HAVE DISCUSSED OTHER GRAVE INTERNATIONAL
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ISSUES EVER SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN YOUR COUNTRY ON APRIL 21,

1975. WE HAVE CONFESSED TO WASHINGTON OUR BEWILDERMENT AND OUR INABILITY TO EXPLAIN THIS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED REVERSION TO RHETORIC REMINISCENT OF THE COLD WAR.

THERE ARE, AS WE BOTH KNOW, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES ON WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MINE DO NOT SEE EYE-TO-EYE. ON DECEMBER 22, 1975, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT I HAD RECEIVED, I REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT AND WAS SPEEDILY RECEIVED BY YOUR EXCELLENCY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. IN A SOBER, FACTUAL MANNER AND WITHOUT VITUPERATION OR SNIDE INNUENDOS, I MADE A REASONED REPRESENTATION OF MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. YOUR EXCELLENCY EXPLAINED THE POLICY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND VERY KINDLY UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTIONS WHICH I HAD RAISED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO "LEAKS" OR HINTS OR OUTBURSTS IN THE PRESS IN EITHER COUNTRY. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEHAVED AND ARE BEHAVING WITH WELCOME DIPLOMATIC CORRECTNESS.

IN CLOSING PLEASE ALLOW ME TO OBSERVE, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THAT THE REMARKS OF THE TELEVISION COMMENTATOR ON JANUARY 16 HAVE MADE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS THAT PRESIDENT FORD GAVE ME LAST MARCH WHEN HE SENT ME TO BUDAPEST. NOR WILL THIS DEVELOPMENT MAKE IT EASIER FOR AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS TO DISCHARGE HIS ASSIGNED DUTIES IN WASHINGTON. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: MY DCM AND I SUSPECT THAT THIS SCURRILOUS ATTACK IS AN ABERRATION, THAT A MAGYAR COLD WARRIOR FOUND AN OPEN MIKE. IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT LET BAD MANNERS GO UNNOTICED AND THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO ARREST SUCH BACKSLIDING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IT IS MY PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY "SUMMON" -- TO USE THE HUNGARIAN COMMENTATOR'S CHOSEN WORD -- AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION.
MCAULIFFE

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